



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

14 Mexican gang members arrested in western suburbs; face deportation

CHICAGO — Officials from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and the Aurora Police Department arrested 14 Sureño 13 gang members last night in a joint operation targeting foreign-born violent street gangs. All those arrested are illegal aliens from Mexico who face deportation.

Last night's arrests were made by the ATF West Suburban Gang Violence Task Force, which combats the spread of gangs and gang-related violence, and seeks to protect public safety by disrupting violent street gangs in the western Chicago suburbs.

ICE agents participate on the task force as part of "Operation Community Shield," a comprehensive national initiative launched by ICE in February 2005 to dismantle violent street gangs with foreign-born members. Since its inception, Operation Community Shield has resulted in the arrest of more than 2,700 gang members nationwide, which represent 294 gangs. ICE agents in Chicago arrested more than 100 of these gang members.

All 14 of the aliens arrested during last night's enforcement action are Mexican nationals and are documented members or associates of the Sureño 13 street gang. Thirteen have past criminal records, which include convictions for burglary, retail theft, DUI and resisting arrest. Nine are being held in ICE custody pending deportation. The remaining five were turned over to state and local authorities on outstanding criminal charges or warrants; they face deportation upon their release.

"The lawlessness that these violent gangs propagate presents a grave threat to public safety," said ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Elissa A. Brown. "ICE is proud to be a member of this task force, and we will use all of our authorities to arrest, and ultimately deport, foreign-born gang members who terrorize our communities."

Those arrested include: Carlos Lopez-Martinez, 23; Antonio Bonilla-Gallegos, 20; Fernando Avila-Garcia, 22; Jesus Felipe Silva-Lopez, 19; Luis Alberto Ortiz-Cacique, 19; Jesus Francisco Ortiz-Cacique, 21; Carlos Trenado-Mondragon, 22; Jose Trenado-Mondragon, 21; Fidencio Alcaraz-Lazarit, 27; Cecilio Gutierrez-Berdin, 22; Ismael Garcia-Rodriguez, 22; Ivan Chavez-Gonzalez, 19; Antonio Chavez-Gonzalez, 21; and Jorge Ortiz-Campos, 26.

"The war on gang violence is ATF Chicago's primary mission in both the city and suburban areas," said Andrew Traver, Special Agent in Charge, Chicago Field Division of ATF. "ATF focuses our resources wherever violent street gangs flourish. We will remain committed to this mission, along with our law enforcement partners, until all gang members recognize that there is no safe haven from the relentless pursuit of justice."

Aurora Chief of Police William Powell had this to say: "These arrests are another example of our ongoing commitment to dismantling street gangs through continued partnerships with federal agencies. The teamwork involving all levels of law enforcement over the past several years has greatly reduced violence in Aurora. To anyone associated with street gangs who has not yet gotten the message, I warn them, these operations will not stop."

About Operation Community Shield:

Operation Community Shield was launched in February 2005 after a threat assessment by ICE identified MS-13 as one of the largest and most violent street gangs in the country. The assessment found that most of these gang members were foreign-born, in the United States illegally, had prior criminal convictions, and/or were involved in crimes that made them subject to ICE's broad immigration and customs authorities.

ICE kicked off Operation Community Shield with an enforcement action that resulted in the arrest of more than 100 members of MS-13. In the months afterward, ICE agents nationwide joined ranks and continued targeting MS-13 members in their jurisdictions. In May 2005, ICE expanded Operation Community Shield to include all criminal street gangs and prison gangs with foreign-born members.

Since that time, ICE has been targeting all violent gang members nationwide by using its administrative immigration authorities to detain and deport illegal alien gang members from the country, and by using its criminal authorities to arrest and prosecute gang members involved in criminal activities.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.